

Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters (SOC 47-2152)

Assemble, install, alter, and repair pipelines or pipe systems that carry water, steam, air, or other liquids or gases. May install heating and cooling equipment and mechanical control systems. Includes sprinklerfitters

Sample of reported job titles: Gas Line Installer; Hot Water Heater Installer; Sprinkling System Installer; Drain Technician; Master Plumber; Plumber Gasfitter



Job Responsibilities

- Cut, thread, or hammer pipes to specifications, using tools such as saws, cutting torches, pipe threaders, or pipe benders.
- Lay out full scale drawings of pipe systems, supports, or related equipment, according to blueprints.
- Assemble or secure pipes, tubes, fittings, or related equipment, according to specifications, by welding, brazing, cementing, soldering, or threading joints or by using couplings, clamps, screws, bolts, cement, plastic solvent, or caulking.
- Install pipe assemblies, fittings, valves, appliances such as dishwashers or water heaters, or fixtures such as sinks or toilets, using hand or power tools.
- Inspect, examine, or test installed systems or pipe lines, using pressure gauge, hydrostatic testing, observation, or other methods.
- Prepare cost estimates for clients.
- Keep records of work assignments.
- Fill pipes or plumbing fixtures with water or air and observe pressure gauges to detect and locate leaks.
- Repair and replace worn parts

New Hampshire Outlook

- Average Hourly Wage*: \$26.38
- Estimated Employment 2016: 1,673
- Projected Employment 2026: 1,906
- Expected 10-Year Growth: 13.9%
- Projected Average Annual Openings: 208

Top industries in NH for this occupation:

- Specialty Trade Contractors
- Self-employed Workers
- Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction
- Machinery Manufacturing

* Wage estimates based on surveys conducted from November 2013 to May 2016, Aged to June 2017.

Education and Training

Although most plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters learn on the job through an apprenticeship, some start out by attending a technical school. In New Hampshire, plumbers are required to be licensed, and must complete an apprenticeship to be eligible for examination as a journeyman plumber.

A high school diploma or equivalent is typically required to become a plumber, pipefitter, or steamfitter. Trade schools offer courses on pipe system design, safety, and tool use. They also offer welding courses that are considered necessary by some pipefitter and steamfitter apprenticeship training programs.

Interests (Holland Code): RCI

- **Realistic** — Realistic occupations frequently involve work activities that include practical, hands-on problems and solutions. They often deal with plants, animals, and real-world materials like wood, tools, and machinery. Many of the occupations require working outside, and do not involve a lot of paperwork or working closely with others.
- **Conventional** — Conventional occupations frequently involve following set procedures and routines. These occupations can include working with data and details more than with ideas. Usually there is a clear line of authority to follow.
- **Investigative** — Investigative occupations frequently involve working with ideas, and require an extensive amount of thinking. These occupations can involve searching for facts and figuring out problems mentally.

Career Cluster: Architecture & Construction

Work Environment

Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters work in factories, homes, businesses, and other places where there are pipes or septic systems. Plumbers are often on call for emergencies, so evening and weekend work is common.

Additional Information Sources**

Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association, <<https://www.phccweb.org/>>

To Find a Job

Contact the nearest NH Employment Security office or go online to www.nhes.nh.gov

** Inclusion of this information is intended to provide a convenient resource for research, but in no way constitutes an endorsement for any organization, nor is the list all-inclusive.

Source:

NH Employment Projections, base year 2016 to projected year 2026
Occupational Outlook Handbook, Bureau of Labor Statistics



For more information:
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